

corruption and to improve administrative functioning. Important among them are: enactment of the Right to Information Act, 2005; Notification of the Whistle Blowers Resolution 2004; the proactive involvement of Ministry/ Department through Annual Action Plan on vigilance; issue of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering and contracting processes by the CVC; enactment of CVC Act, 2003 and strengthening the CBI to discharge its anti-corruption work; increased use of information and Communication Technology; introduction of Citizen Charters & simplifications of procedures/systems, which also aim at eradicating corruption by improving transparency & accountability.

(f) Does not arise.

Upgradation of pay scale

2494. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether DOPT has upgraded the pay-scale of Assistants in Central Secretariat, Service from Rs. 5500-9000 to 6500-10500;

(b) whether it is a fact that mode recruitment, charter of duties and training in this grade in CSS/Railway Board/Ministry of External Affairs/ Armed Forces HQs are same and selection is by a single competitive exams by the Staff Selection Commission;

(c) if so, whether the up-gradation in pay scale has been done for only CSS; and

(d) the reasons for not upgrading the employees of Ministry of External Affairs and Armed Forces HQs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The pay scale of Assistants of Central Secretariat Service (CSS) and Personal Assistants of Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service (CSSS) as well as Assistants of Railway Board Secretariat Service (RBSS) and Steno-'C' of Railway Board Secretariat Stenographer's Service (RBSSS) has been upgraded to Rs. 6500-10500 from Rs. 5500-9000 to maintain parity with the pay scale of the Inspectors of Central Board of

Direct Taxes (CBDT)/Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC). The upgradation of pay scale of two services has been done as an exception specific to these two categories of posts. Such cases of upgradation of pay scale are required to be examined by concerned Cadre Controlling Authorities in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. So far, no formal proposal from the respective Administrative Authority has been received in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

Representation of SCs/STs in bureaucracy

2495. SHRI BALIHARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether representation of SC and ST in the higher echelon of bureaucracy is dismal;

(b) the total number of Secretary, AS, JS in Ministries and the numeral and percentile representation SCs/STs;

(c) the special efforts being made by Government to ensure representation of SCs/STs at above said levels in Ministry in accordance with their reservation which is 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent;

(d) the eligible SCs/STs AS/JS who could be promoted to the rank of Secretary and additional Secretary; and

(e) by when Government propose to promote?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):

(a) to (e) The total number of Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and Joint Secretaries posted in the Ministries/Departments is 378. The posts of Secretary, Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary in the Ministries/Departments are not promotion posts, with the exception of posts in the Ministry of External Affairs etc. where the posts of these designations are cadre posts. Under the Central Staffing Scheme, the posts of Secretary, Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary in other Ministries/Departments are mostly filled by appointment of officers, borrowed from various cadres including the State cadres and empanelled to hold such posts. At the time of empanelment, every effort is made to empanel officers belonging